

During April, I traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan to thank our troops for their service and to meet with the commander of U.S. and Allied forces, General Stanley McChrystal, as well as President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, and President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee charged with oversight over our military, I believe it is important to meet with commanders and troops on the ground involved in combat operations to fully understand the situation there. After visiting, I feel very optimistic about the continued American efforts in Afghanistan and our partnership with Pakistan.

During my trip, I kept a detailed journal of my meetings and travels so I could keep you better informed. For the next several days I will post my journal entries from each day online:





Rep. Lou Blum (D-PA) and Rep. Michael Rogers (R-MI) shake hands with a soldier from the 101st Airborne Division during a visit to the Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. The delegation was led by Rep. Blum and Rep. Rogers.







